

SHERIFF'S DETENTIONS, MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, to perform a wide variety of psychiatric casework and psychotherapy services to Sheriff's inmates; provides case consultation and advise concerning inmate's status, diagnoses and treatment; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Sheriff's Detentions, Mental Health Clinician is a licensed, professional class allocated only to the Sheriff's Department, Medical Services Program. Under the direction of the Sheriff's Detentions, Chief Mental Health Clinician, incumbents in this class are responsible for providing a wide variety of professional mental health and case management services to inmates with psychiatric disorders. This class is distinguished from social worker, counselor or other mental health classes by possession of an MFCC or LCSW counseling license issued by the State of California and working with persons convicted of crimes confined in a Sheriff's detention facility.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Performs intake screening on inmates; conducts psycho-social interviews and prepares case histories for use by medical treatment team; clinically evaluates and assesses the nature and extent of an individual's condition by psycho-social case histories, psychological testing and evaluation and educational assessment; makes clinical assessments and diagnoses and develops treatment plans; provides appropriate treatment using individual or group therapy, behavior modification, collateral treatment; assesses inmate status prior to release or transfer to a State prison; develops post release recommendations and referrals to appropriate therapeutic community and/or social service providers; participates in case conferences with psychiatrists, administrative and medical staff and acts as therapeutic team member; interprets and explains to inmates and family the social and emotional factors pertaining to mental illness and the methods of alleviating emotional and environmental problems; provides information regarding the availability of county social and mental health services; interfaces with a wide range of community organizations; documents case records and makes relevant reports; consults with community agencies on the identification and management of social and mental health issues; participates in public information programs to increase the public and communities awareness of mental health principles, practices and resources; participates in public education efforts by developing and conducting workshops, seminars and educational materials; represents the department at meetings to plan and develop community resources, resolve problems and reduce recidivism; may assist in program planning and the development of evaluation criteria; may help develop training and procedural manuals for specific projects; assists in developing, improving and implementing social and mental health programs and projects; may make oral presentations.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge of:

- Psychology principles and theory.
- Psychological and behavioral dysfunctions occurring in mental disorder or in social disorganization.
- Human sexuality.
- Treatment modalities, consultation methods and techniques.
- Group dynamics.

- Most current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, patient's rights, and other laws relating to mental health treatment.
- Behavior patterns related to illicit and prescribed psychotropic drugs and medications.
- Behavior patterns related to common physical illnesses.
- Crisis intervention techniques and theory.
- Cultural and socio-economic issues relevant to providing appropriate mental health services to special population groups.
- Dynamics of community organization.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Perform clinical evaluation, assessment and case management with inmates in a Sheriff's detention facility.
- Evaluate a complex psychosocial history, make an assessment and current diagnosis, and develop an appropriate treatment plan.
- Perform crisis intervention, individual, family, group counseling.
- Maintain records and prepare reports.
- Communicate effectively with inmates, family members, professional staff and the public.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is:

A master's degree from an accredited graduate school in social work, psychology, counseling, or a closely related field, AND, at least two (2) years of full-time, post master's degree experience in a mental health program providing counseling and crisis intervention to adults, under clinical supervision.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange necessary transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Must be licensed by the State of California as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Marriage, Family and Child Counselor (MFCC) or Clinical Psychologist.

Background Investigation:

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment candidates offered employment in Sheriff's Department facilities are subject to a background investigation that will include a polygraph examination.

Working Conditions:

May be required to work evenings and/or weekends.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).